GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1036
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
WTO S CONFERENCE IN CANCUN
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether India participated in the World Trade Organisation`s Conference held in Cancun recently; and

(b)if so, the details of decisions taken in this conference with regard to agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): In view of the serious differences among Members in particular developed countries which heavily subsidize their farm sector and other countries including developing countries which do not, agreement could not be reached on the modalities for negotiations in agriculture. Since divergence in positions of members remained in other areas of the Doha Work Programmealso, it was decided at the Cancun Ministerial Conference that, while considerable progress hasbeen made, more work needs to be done in some key areas to enable the WTO members toproceed towards the conclusion of the negotiations in fulfillment of the commitments in the Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November, 2001.The meeting agreed that the Chairman ofthe General Council working in close cooperation with the Director General, WTO willcoordinate this work and convene a meeting of the General Council at Senior Officials level no later than 15 December 2003 to take the action necessary at that stage to enable WTO Membersto move towards a successful and timely conclusion of the negotiations as scheduled, by 1 January 2005.